

1 **What Is Claimed Is**

2 1. A concealable buckle apparatus comprising:

- 3 □ a panel including a recess and a margin formed about the
4 recess, the recess including a bottom and a wall projecting
5 from the bottom and two slots extending from the bottom to
6 the wall;
7 □ a locking element including a concave first portion, a convex
8 second portion extending from the first portion, a concave third
9 portion extending from the second portion and a fourth portion
10 extending from the third portion, wherein the fourth portion of
11 the locking element is secured to the bottom of the recess;
12 □ a shaft put between the locking element and the bottom of the
13 panel; and
14 □ a buckle including two lateral portions inserted through the
15 slots and secured to the shaft and a central portion formed
16 between the lateral portions, wherein the buckle is concealed in
17 the recess when the shaft is retained in the first portion of the
18 locking element, and the buckle is completely extended from
19 the recess when the shaft is retained in the third portion of the
20 locking element.

21 2. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the
22 shaft defines two apertures each for receiving one of the lateral
23 portions of the buckle.

24 3. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 1 including a
25 casing for receiving the locking element, the shaft and the recess of
26 the panel.

- 1 4. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 3 wherein the
2 casing includes a recess receiving the locking element, the shaft
3 and the recess of the panel and a margin extending from the recess
4 for attachment to an external article.
- 5 5. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the
6 margin of the panel is secured to the margin of the casing.
- 7 6. The concealable buckle apparatus according to claim 5 including
8 two bolts, wherein the margin of the panel defines two apertures,
9 and the margin of the casing defines two apertures, and the bolts
10 are driven into the apertures of the panel and the apertures of the
11 casing.

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